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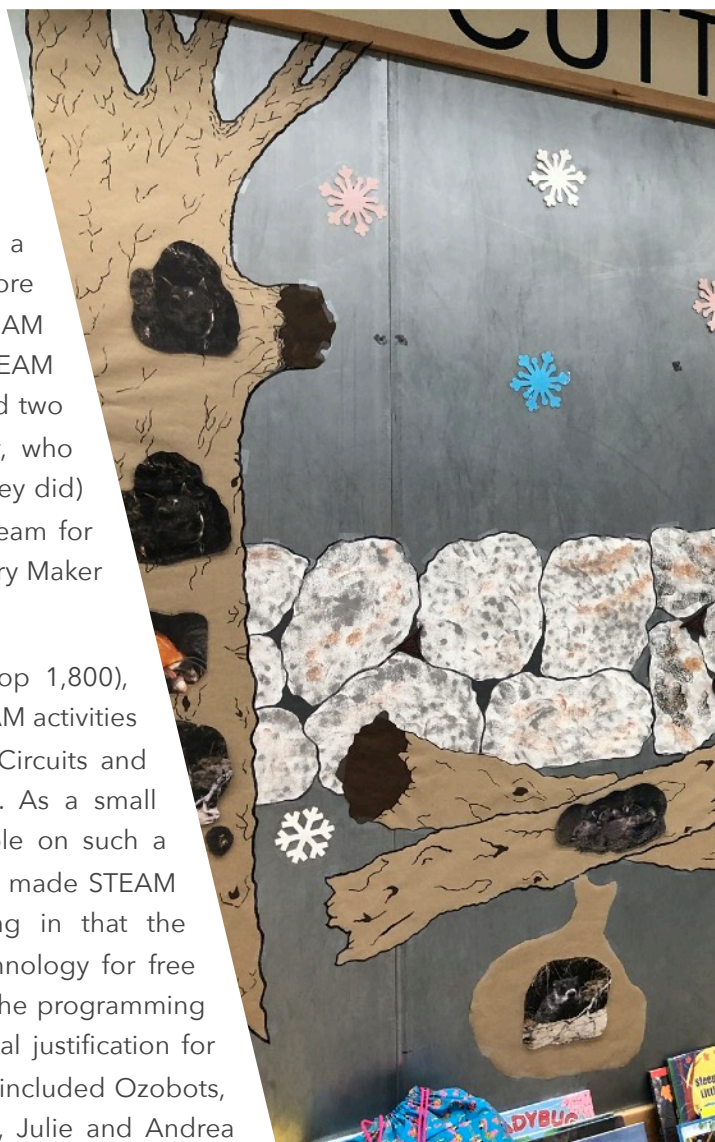
# GRANITE STATE LIBRARIES

## Jaffrey Public Library wins STEAM grant

Julie Perrin, Director, Jaffrey Public Library

The Jaffrey Public Library was recently awarded a \$20,000 STEAM Learning grant from Millipore Sigma to support the library's 2020 STEAM Learning plans, building on the \$10,000 STEAM grant awarded to the library in 2019. How did two librarians, Julie Perrin and Andrea Connolly, who both disliked science in school (or thought they did) become the Mad Scientist STEAM focused team for their library? It started with the NH State Library Maker Play program five years ago.

In the rural library of Greenfield (service pop 1,800), patrons were first introduced to a host of STEAM activities – 3D pens, Dash & Dot, Brain Flakes, Snap Circuits and more via the state library lending program. As a small library, trying new tech toys was not possible on such a restricted budget so the state lending model made STEAM accessible. The response was overwhelming in that the program allowed Julie to introduce the technology for free and see what resonated for the community. The programming response became the statistical and anecdotal justification for community donations and grant funding that included Ozobots, a 3D printer, iPads and more. On to Jaffrey, Julie and Andrea repeated the Greenfield success story, also with the State Library Maker Play toys during the first Mad Scientists school vacation program three years ago. Some good press and marketing



**Photo of Jaffrey's magnetic  
wall by Bobbi Slossar, NHSL**

promotion led to community and business philanthropy, as well as grant opportunities. A former staff space was converted into “The Lab,” and now houses a 3D printer and a host of Maker toys. The Lab is the sensory play space for preschoolers at Storytime and the afterschool destination for all ages, who enjoy self-directed programming in the space, such as crafts, Lego challenges, 3D pens, Brain Flakes and Snap Circuits.

What will they do with \$20,000 for STEAM Learning? Last year’s Millipore grant allowed for serious capacity building, with a 72 inch smart TV, Chromebooks, iPads, new Maker Toys like Ozobot Evo, Makey Makey, and Cubetto, and most importantly, STEAM Learning Assistants. The 2020 plans include a higher budget for STEAM Learning Assistants, professional “expert” programs, a fleet of student microscopes (and one for staff with an integrated camera to hook up to that big TV), molecular building toys, lab equipment and a mobile rolling Lab Demo Center to allow “Lab” activities to move about the library as needed.

Special thanks to Millipore Sigma for their commitment to science education and to the New Hampshire State Library for the Maker Play program that started it all.

## **Change the Subject, a screening at Lebanon Public Libraries**

**by Amy Lappin, Deputy Director, Lebanon Public Libraries**

Dartmouth College librarian, Jill Baron was working the reference desk helping a student with research when the student objected to the Library of Congress’ use of the term, “Illegal Aliens,” rather than the more accepted “Undocumented Immigrants.” The student, Melissa Padilla, asked Baron how they could make the change leading them on a journey from the Upper Valley to the floor of Congress in Washington D.C.

Firmly believing that words matter and more importantly, the words we use to describe people matter, Baron and her co-director, Sawyer Broadly, documented Padilla and her fellow students’ efforts in the 2019 film, *Change the Subject*. The 54-minute movie is inspirational and filled with heart and humanity. It has been screened at film festivals, conferences, and libraries around the country. The filmmakers would love to get it to more public libraries.

At a screening at the Lebanon Libraries last month, both Jill Baron and John DeSantis, a Dartmouth Cataloging and Metadata Services Librarian, attended and were extremely generous with their time after the film. While the LOC changes are still pending, the Lebanon staff who watched the film, were moved to make changes in their local catalog the next day. Libraries who are interested in showing *Change the Subject*, can visit their [website](#). The film can be purchased with one time public performance rights available with subtitles in English, Spanish, and Greek.

## Children's Books at New Hampshire Law Library

Mary Searles, New Hampshire Law Librarian

Let's face it, most law libraries are kind of boring inside: rows and rows of brown books with dark red lettering or, for variety, dark red books with brown lettering. But the New Hampshire Law Library is looking a little more colorful these days with the addition of a collection of children's books, crayons, and coloring books meant to entertain kids while their caregivers are doing legal research at the library.



Legal research isn't easy: parents need to be able to focus on what they're doing without worrying about their kid sliding down the bannister (yes, it has happened!) and maybe our colorful new collection will help a little bit. The library staff is enjoying it too! Many thanks to Deborah Dutcher from the State Library for her help in creating the collection.

## North Hampton Library expansion vote

by Susan Grant, Director, North Hampton Public Library

At the North Hampton Town deliberative session February 1st, voters were faced with two competing warrant articles, both involving the construction of a new or expanded Library. The Library Board of Trustees had been working with Lavallee Brensinger Architects for two years and construction managers Bonnette, Page & Stone on plans to expand and renovate the current library to double the size and bring the entire library into the 21st century. November of 2017 the Library Trustees met with the Select Board for their input on the project and proceeded with the expansion and renovation plans. However, six months ago the Board of Trustees discovered that the Select Board had hired their own architect and plans were drawn up for a new library on the lot next to the current library, without any input from the Library Trustees, staff or town residents. The Select Board decided to revert to an older town plan they originally did not support and have not supported for 17 years, which was to build a new library on the lot next to the current library and then renovate the current library for town administrative offices. After obtaining legal counsel from the Town Attorney advising against this, the Select Board continued with their plan. The Library Trustees obtained legal counsel in addition to the Town Attorney's legal opinion on who has the authority to plan and build a new library. To avoid a costly legal battle, it was clear a compromise would be in everyone's best interest, so the Trustees offered to change plans and build on the adjacent lot, but using Lavallee Brensinger Architects and Bonnette, Page and Stone, construction company with whom they have signed contracts. The Select Board declined the compromise and continued to move forward with their architect and getting bids

on construction of their building. The citizens of North Hampton were split in what became a very divisive and heated issue. It looked like a deadlock might ensue as well as costly legal battles.

At the town meeting February 1st, an amendment to the Select Board's warrant article (and plan for a new library) was proposed by a member of the Budget Committee, which was to build the new library on the lot next door, but to put the control of the project back with the Library Trustees, which was the compromise originally rejected by the Select Board. He wanted the decision to be put before the citizens and not just the town governing board. In order to keep the bonded amount the same, and for minimal impact on the tax payers, monies from the town's undesignated fund balance were included in the amendment to offset the increase of the total project from roughly \$3.4 million to \$3.9 million. A silent ballot was taken and the amendment passed 103 - 10. The design of the "all new construction" Library will remain essentially the same as the expanded and renovated library design. Only the location and position of the building will be changed and a new parking lot will be included. For the town to come together to create a compromise that the majority of citizens are happy with, and the Trustees whole-heartedly endorse was a victory for the Library and the town residents. Now we just need it to pass on March 10th to start building the new library that has been in the works since the mid 1990's.

### **Kensington Public Library turns 125 this year!**

**Susan Gilbert, Director, Kensington Public Library**

In 1895, Joseph Chase Hilliard of Boston presented to the Board of Trustees, for the benefit and free use of the people of Kensington forever, the beautiful brick building that had been built in the preceding months and still remains today.

Many activities are planned including monthly literary events with local authors, "Books in Bloom" (professional floral designers creating arrangements inspired by books,) "One book, One Town" initiative (*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott), KES 4th grade presentation on the history of the library, timeline of events in Kensington and the world in 1895 and a big "wrap-up" party in October. We hope that you can join us for some or all of these events. We will be posting information on all these happenings on our website, our e-newsletter and social media.

### **Gordon-Nash Library merged into New Hampton School**

On January 1, 2020, the Gordon-Nash Library merged into the New Hampton School. Read more about the merger and the future of the library on the New Hampton School [website](#).



## Staff Changes



The Trustees of the **Kimball Library, Atkinson, NH** are pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Brown as Library Director effective March 9, 2020. Karen has over 25 years of public library experience in Massachusetts most recently, as Deputy Director of Libraries in Cambridge. A strong manager, she brings special expertise in the areas of customer service and building collections based on community interests. Karen is looking forward to working with our talented staff to expand upon the many successes of the Kimball Library. Karen lives in Reading with her husband and their two sons.

Holly Shaw, who was director of the **Silsby Free Public Library** for the past three years and who worked in various public library positions over the past 20 years, has retired. Reported by Jen Haynes

*The Berlin Sun* reported that Denise Jensen, director of the **Berlin Public Library**, retired at the end of November after 24 years, with nearly 18 years as director.

Patti Hardenberg reports that she has retired from the **Enfield Public Library** at the end of January after a long career of librarianship at the Lebanon Libraries and the Etna Library.

The **Derry Public Library** wishes to announce the departure of director Cara Potter. Cara accepted a new position as director of the Defiance Public Library System in Ohio, her native state. Under Cara's initiative, the library began its annual popular Author Fest event, created the MacGregor Poetry Contest, named the first Derry Poet Laureate, and completed major improvements to lighting and HVAC. Staff and community members wish Cara well on her new adventures in Ohio!



## Longtime Hampstead Library staff member Marcia Strykowski retires

Katherine Thomas, IT Librarian, Hampstead Public Library

After 14 and a half years at the Hampstead library, our own in-house author, Marcia Strykowski, has decided to spend more time with her family and on her writing career. Marcia's last day was Friday, February 7. Marcia began working at HPL in 2005, and she was the first to become a certified paraprofessional in NH. Her main tasks were cataloging all items into the online catalog and ordering juvenile novels and picture books.

She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. After numerous magazine and anthology contributions, she now has several published books. The novels are aimed at tweens (ages 9-12) but, to her happy surprise, are read by all ages. The first, *Call Me Amy*, was chosen for Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of 2013. Its sequel, *Amy's Choice*, was released in fall, 2014. Both stories take place in a tiny fishing village on the coast of Maine. Her third novel is *Roller Boy*. All of these novels are available at Hampstead Public Library, and possibly at your own! You can visit her [website](#) to keep up with her career, if you wish.

While Marcia will relish more time for writing, she says she will miss her Hampstead patrons and fellow staff, as they will miss her.



Submit your library news and staff changes  
to Deborah Dutcher at NHSL.



## Professional Development

### Technology Training

**Bobbi Slossar, Technology Librarian, NHSL**

Are you looking for innovative adult programs to work within the "storytelling" theme of the Summer Reading Program? I would be happy to provide staff training on: Collecting Oral Histories, Preserving Your Family Stories by learning proper digitization techniques, and genealogy training – with a bonus trick for making an "escape-like" game using local history and genealogy clues.

Additional training opportunities on various topics, such as eBooks/digital audiobooks, WordPress, Omeka and individual consultations for website building are available.

Contact [Bobbi Slossar](#) to host a training session or schedule a (free) technology consultation.

## Strategy of Sustainability - Catalyst and Convener (part 4 of 6)

### *How many of the following scenarios sound familiar to you?*

**Lori Fisher, Assistant State Librarian, NH State Library**

- Teachers don't have time for us, they ignore us, and could care less about summer reading.
- The town manager held a meeting with various town departments and committees about small business development in town and didn't bother to invite us.
- Parks and Rec has advertised a storytime yoga class - this is something we already do at the library! How dare they!

What do all of these items have in common? All of the libraries involved are waiting for someone to invite them to participate in dialogue. Does that sound like an effective strategy for getting things done - waiting to be invited to participate or waiting for someone else to make the first move to start communication? It's like hoping that you'll be asked out on a date by your crush when you have the autonomy to ask him/her yourself!

In chapter 25 of Rebekkah Smith Aldrich's book *Sustainable Thinking*, she encourages librarians to think more in terms of being catalysts and conveners...getting the ball rolling when no one seems to be doing anything.

"It starts with you, but the power lies in your institution participating, actively, sometimes in the lead."

How can you be a catalyst? Actively look for opportunities to address the main concerns of your community by paying attention to what community members are talking about. This can take the form of paying attention to conversations about town issues while you are on the reference or circulation desk; staying up-to-date with the community Facebook page

topics; monitoring the Board of Selectmen and School Board meeting minutes to identify the top three issues being discussed every month; or chatting with a local organization's leadership about their hot topics when they arrive to use your library's meeting room.

Are PFSA's a major problem in your town? While the library cannot physically eradicate PFSA's from the water supply, the library can offer to host informational meetings featuring those town/state organizations that are addressing the issue, or provide resources and updates that people can access either online through the library web site or as materials to check out. Is full-day kindergarten a hot button issue in your town? Figure out who can speak to both sides of the issue and hold a forum prior to town/school meeting where residents can get their questions answered directly. Alternatively, offer to have materials from both sides available for residents to pick up when getting their town and school annual report.

Embracing the role of connector and convener can also lessen chance that people will "forget" that the library is interested in being part of the solution to community problems. What does this look like? If you find that there is more than one group working on a specific issue in your town, offer to host a meeting so that the disparate groups can discuss what they are doing. Do you think more can be done to encourage small business in your town? Host a small business summit to brainstorm ideas and solutions among all of the various stakeholders.

Libraries are good at bringing in the experts, providing a safe space for the discussion of ideas, and creating new networks within communities. You might be saying “but this is one more thing for me to do!” Can you honestly say that your library is better off being left out of important community conversations because the perception of Libraries = Only Books remains unchallenged in your town due to silence on the part of the Library? Put the library forward as a stakeholder in the community.

If any library or co-op is interested in discussing ideas regarding sustainability and brainstorming local solutions, I would be happy to attend to

either listen in or moderate the discussion. Next month: Part 5, Language is Important.

-[Lori Fisher](#), Assistant State Librarian, NHSL

#### Resources for further information:

Sustainable Thinking (2018) by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich - available for purchase through the American Library Association; also available for inter-library loan from the NH State Library professional collections. Contact the NHSL circulation desk at 271-2616 to get on the reserve list.

[www.sustainablelibraries.org](http://www.sustainablelibraries.org) (website by R. Smith Aldrich)

### From the Desk of Deborah Dutcher

#### Youth & Adult Services Consultant, NHSL

Are you a tech librarian or really any NH librarian looking to add tech tools, resources, host workshops or STEAM Clubs at your library? Would up to \$500 help? Apply for the [NH Summer Learning Grant](#).

The New Hampshire State Library is making grants available in amounts up to \$500 to eligible libraries for projects in the areas of Summer Learning. Applications must be made by March 27, 2020. Grants must be executed between June 1 and August 31, 2020.

#### Background

Children and teens who do not have access to quality learning opportunities during the summer months are at risk for losing reading and math skills acquired during the school year. Low-income youth are particularly at risk for summer learning loss, as they not only lose access to learning opportunities in a safe, supportive environment, but also lose access to

healthy meals and physical education. Public libraries strive to stem this summer learning loss through equitable and accessible programming and services implemented through the annual Summer Reading Program.

#### Grant Opportunity

The Summer Learning grant is open to libraries looking to increase their impact on summer learning loss for youth ages 5-18. Projects should relate to summer learning beyond tracking reading accomplishments and address the disparities faced by low-income and underserved youth in the community.

Projects could include, *but are not limited to*:

- Program series that address a community need or build on a community learning initiative
- Programming developed and implemented in partnership with a community organization or school



- Activities and programs that support Transforming Teen Services, computational thinking and or connected learning
- Multigenerational programming that engages caregivers in a child's learning or that pairs older adults as mentors to youth
- Purchasing tech tools and resources for programming and circulation
- Purchasing or assembling kits on a variety of topics for circulation
- Healthy activities that complement a summer meals program

View the [online application](#) to learn more on eligibility and to view a paper version of the application to help prepare your answers in advance. As always, Bobbi Slossar and I are here to support you and your libraries and are happy to help solidify ideas you may have in applying for this opportunity.

The traditional **Kids, Books & the Arts Grants** are also available this year and it may be [completed and submitted online](#).

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Last week Bobbi and I had the wonderful opportunity of speaking briefly before the Governor and the Executive Council at a breakfast held here at the beautiful NH State Library. Here is a [snapshot of what I talked about](#).

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### Small & Rural Libraries Management Series

Are you participating in the ALA Publishing five-part webinar series (provided to NH with funding from the NH Charitable Foundation) that is free of charge to any library staff member or volunteer in Maine, Massachusetts, New

Hampshire or Vermont? It is NOT too late to get in on several more live sessions.

All events will be recorded, so even if you are unavailable to attend live, you can still access the information and learn afterward. Managing any library is a major challenge, but when you are working in a small or rural facility, the volume and depths of your responsibility are on another level. If you have never managed a budget, supervised staff, or been responsible for strategic decisions, it can be easy to get overwhelmed. Each 90-minute event covers a crucial area of library management and will be taught by an experienced librarian who has worked with rural librarians extensively. Each webinar will include a lecture, handouts and ample time for Q and A.

Our five events are:

- [Supervising Library Staff: A Guide for the Rural Library Manager](#): Jan 24, 2020 at 1:00 pm
- [Balancing Library Management with Day-to-Day Responsibilities: A Guide for the Rural Library with John Moorman](#): Jan 31, 2020 at 1:00 pm
- [Hiring and Recruiting Library Workers: A Guide for Small and Rural Librarians with Catherine Hakala-Ausperk](#): February 7, 2020 at 1:00 pm
- [Building Community Partnerships: A Rural Library's Guide with Andrew Sanderbeck](#): February 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm
- [Library Security for Small and Rural Libraries with Dr. Steve Albrecht](#): February 21, 2020 at 1:00 pm

You can register for the event at <https://bit.ly/359u0Pp>. You can register for the entire series or the individual events in any combination you

like. There is no cost to attend. All events will be recorded, and the recording will be available free of charge.

If you have questions, please contact ALA Publishing at [ecoursehelp@ala.org](mailto:ecoursehelp@ala.org).

### **T3 Project - Transforming Teen Services: Be the Connection Libraries, Teens and Connected Learning**

Join Deborah Dutcher and Julia Lanter for the first in a series of Transforming Teen Services workshops.

Connected Learning happens when a peer or adult can connect a teen's interests and skills to real world opportunities. Libraries can easily nurture these interests through programming, and are well-positioned to connect teens to future career possibilities through community relationships. In fact, most libraries are already doing this--they just don't realize it! Join us as we discuss what connected learning is, review some best practices for working with teens, and explore how you can utilize connected learning with intention at your library.

This 3-hour workshop has the following outcomes:

#### **Participants will:**

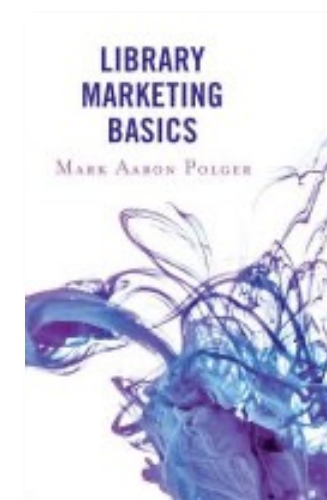
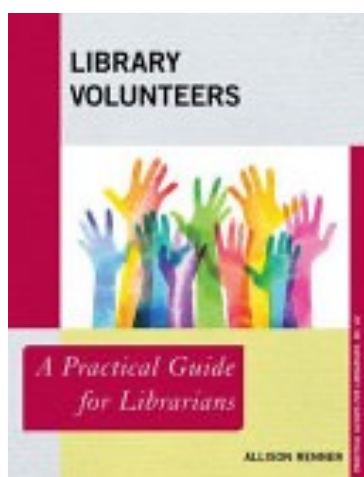
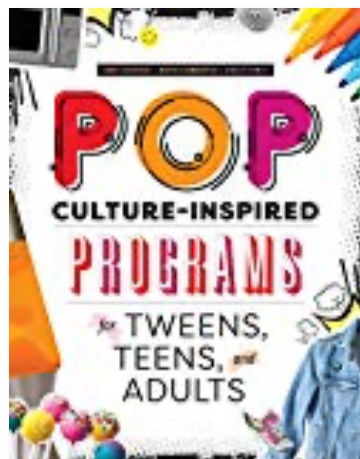
- Dive into youth voice & choice
- Understand the philosophy of Connected Learning as it relates to educational and career opportunities
- Explore the principles of Connected Learning
- Think about how to operationalize Connected Learning theory into practice

Transforming Teen Services with Connected Learning was developed by YALSA and is aimed at improving competencies for library staff serving teens and are part of the YALSA/COSLA IMLS funded Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach (T3) project. Register [HERE](#) for March 16 in Durham, April 13 in Hanover or May 18 in Conway all 1-4 pm.

-[Deborah Dutcher](#), Youth & Adult Services Consultant, NHSL

*Granite State Libraries* is a publication of the New Hampshire State Library. Issues are released the second Friday of each month. Submit articles to [Deborah Dutcher](#) by the first Friday of the month. Report errors to [Bobbi Lee Slossar](#).

## New Professional Development Books from NH State Library



Contact the [NH State Library's circulation desk](#) for an account to request these professional development titles via interlibrary loan.

